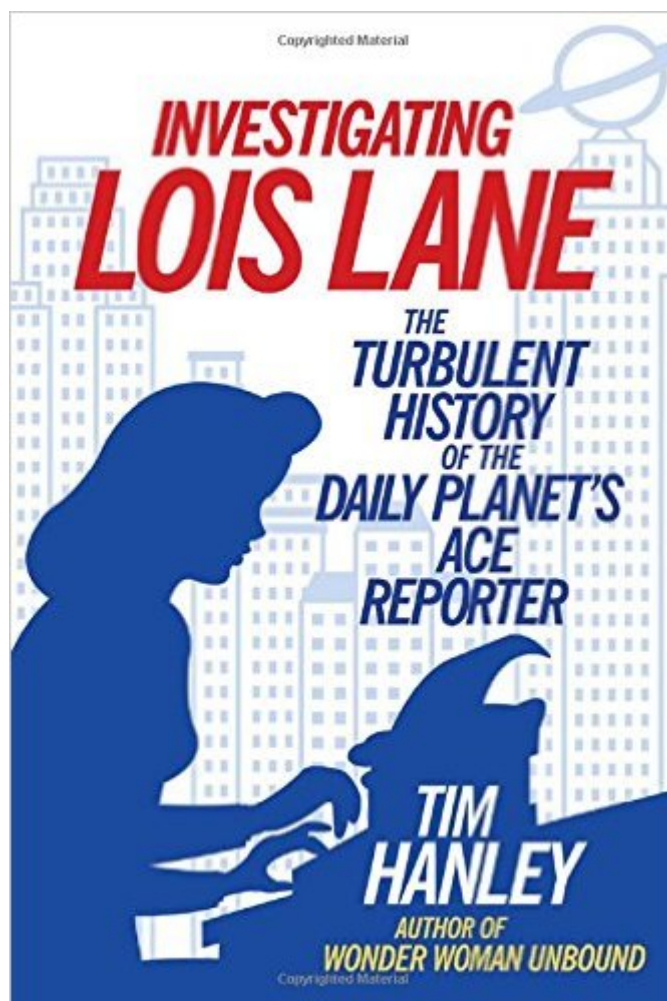


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Investigating Lois Lane: The Turbulent History Of The Daily Planet's Ace Reporter



Synopsis

In a universe full of superheroes, Lois Lane has fought for truth and justice for over 75 years on page and screen without a cape or tights. From her creation by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster in 1938 to her forthcoming appearance in *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* in 2016, from helming her own comic book for twenty-six years to appearing in animated series, live-action TV shows, and full-length movies, Lois Lane has been a paragon of journalistic integrity and the paramour of the world's strongest superhero. But her history is one of constant tension. From her earliest days, Lois yearned to make the front page of the *Daily Planet*, but was held back by her damsel-in-distress role. When she finally became an ace reporter, asinine lessons and her tumultuous romance with Superman dominated her storylines for decades and relegated her journalism to the background. Through it all, Lois remained a fearless and ambitious character, and today she is a beloved icon and an inspiration to many. Though her history is often troubling, Lois's journey, as revealed in *Investigating Lois Lane*, showcases her ability to always escape the gendered limitations of each era and of the superhero genre as a whole.

Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Chicago Review Press (March 1, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1613733321

ISBN-13: 978-1613733325

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #489,187 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #165 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Comics & Graphic Novels](#) #217 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > History & Price Guides](#) #363 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Historical & Biographical Fiction](#)

Customer Reviews

As Greg Ruska makes clear in the introduction, "She's the woman Superman falls in love with--think about who that woman has to be." In the words of Bryan Q Miller, a writer for *Smallville*, "Lois Lane is Clark Kent's Superman." Tim Hanley chronicles the Yin to Superman's Yang, the ace reporter for the *Daily Planet*, Lois Lane. Thoroughly researching her origins it is discovered that Lois was based

on a real-life high school crush of Superman co-creator Joe Shuster. Ultimately this woman ended up marrying the OTHER superman creator Jerry Siegel. No wonder Lois was the lynchpin in a triangle with only two sides! Over the years, Lois has changed with the times. From independent "girl reporter" to ardent feminist to various degrees of marital bliss with Clark and or Superman, all the while often serving as the damsel in distress. Tim Hanley covers Lois in all of her incarnations comic book, radio, television, and film. Every actress that assayed the role left their impression. Joan Alexander, who played Lois on the radio series, also loaned her voice to the Fleischer Studios cartoon shorts, still some of the best adaptations of the "Man of Steel" in any medium. The two television Lois' relationship to George Reeves and his mysterious death are examined. Each actress is given a bio and an assessment of their respective "ace reporters." Every phase of the comic book incarnation is described and placed in its proper social and chronological context. Lois has been drawn and written almost always by men. Sometimes, these men had rather patriarchal notions of a woman's place in both the work and home environment. Hanley demonstrates how that has changed with time.

In addition to a sidekick -- quite often of a comedic nature -- most fictional male heroes usually require a female as part of the standard equation. The dynamic does not necessarily demand a true romantic relationship between the two participants although in most instances a certain noticeable chemistry is more often than not both hinted at and desired by the public. Yesteryear's comic book characters in particular always tread a fine line between friendship and romance and this is never more glaringly apparent than in the myriad of depictions of girl reporter Lois Lane and her curious relationship with Superman. Lois has been around nearly as long as Superman, who made his own debut way back in 1938. Over the years a great many things have changed about Lois -- her hairstyle, fashion sense, her initial verbal viciousness usually leveled at poor Clark Kent and on occasion even her marital status -- but one thing that has really never deserted her has been her sense of independence, defiance of authority and drive to achieve her journalistic goals. Whether it is in the comics, in cartoons, feature films, the stage or on TV, Lois Lane has always emerged as a force to be reckoned with and a no-nonsense battering ram of a reporter. The word "courageous" has become synonymous with her and for good reason. Lois' crazy quilt of a life and career has now been meticulously researched and documented in Tim Hanley's new and highly entertaining book *Investigating Lois Lane: The Turbulent History of the Daily Planet's Ace Reporter*.

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